

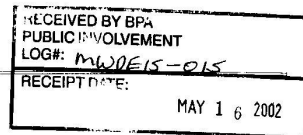
Kuehn, Ginny -KC-7

From: Dan/Barb Sisk [dbsisk@earthlink.net]

Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2002 5:48 PM

To: comments@bpa.gov

Subject: Opposing Washington Winds Rattlesnake Mountain Wind Farm

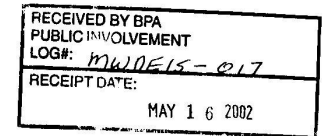


I oppose the development of the Washington Winds Wind Farm on Rattlesnake Mountain. This development will be destructive to the unique and fragile environs of the Rattlesnake ridge.

Daniel R. Sisk
Registered Voter
Richland, WA
Benton County

May 15, 2002

Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs Department KC-7
P.O. Box 12999
Portland, OR 97212



Ref: Maiden wind Farm Draft Environmental Impact Statement

To the Administrator:

Thank you for providing The Nature Conservancy (The Conservancy) this opportunity to comment on the proposed action described in the above referenced document. The proposal clearly states the purpose for the project and distinguishes between the action and No Action alternatives. The legislative and market contexts for the project are also clearly set forth. The Conservancy has a regional presence in the area of the proposed action, brought about by the high biodiversity conservation needs determined through research and planning conducted over the last decade, described more fully below.

Introduction and Background

Key areas of interest to us in the proposed project area include the Hanford Reach National Monument and the Yakima Training Center. The Conservancy's identification of these priority areas comes in part from the Conservancy's Columbia Plateau Ecoregional assessment process. Based upon principles of conservation biology, our planning model yields a set of conservation areas representing biological diversity at varying biological and spatial scales. In addition to the Hanford Monument and Yakima Training Center, other private and federal ownerships harboring significant sources of remnant high quality plant communities are found within and in the vicinity of the proposed project.

In 1992 the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Conservancy entered into a Memorandum of Understanding that called for a cooperative and coordinated inventory of plants, animals and ecologically significant areas at Hanford. This study is noteworthy in its discovery of plant and insect species new to science. The following excerpt from the executive summary underscores the importance of this area within the Columbia Plateau ecoregion (*Biodiversity Inventory and Analysis of the Hanford Site*, TNC: 1999):

Findings from the biodiversity inventory clearly demonstrate that the Hanford Site, including the Hanford Reach, is home to a spectacular, unduplicated and irreplaceable natural legacy. Within its mosaic of habitats, Hanford supports a wealth of relatively unaltered and increasingly uncommon native plant communities, the size and diversity of which is unmatched in the Columbia Basin. Not surprisingly, significant numbers of plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, many of which are rare or declining in Washington, were found to be associated with or dependent on these habitats. In its present condition the Hanford Site is not only a refuge, but also a genetic bank for both the common and rare plants and animals that are integral components of the